

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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CLARENCE H. POE, Editor.
J. W. SCHMIDT, Proprietor and Business Manager.

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"THE INDUSTRIAL AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF OUR PEOPLE PARALLEL TO ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS OF STATE POLICY," is the motto of The Progressive Farmer, and upon this platform it shall rise or fall. Serving to master, ruled by no faction, circumscribed by no selfish or narrow policy, its aim will be to foster and promote the best interests of the whole people of the State. It will be true to the instincts, traditions and history of the Anglo-Saxon race. On all matters relating specially to the great interests it represents, it will speak with no uncertain voice, but will fearlessly the right defend and impartially the wrong condemn."—From Col. Polk's Salutatory, Feb. 10, 1886.

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THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER is the Official Organ of the North Carolina Farmers' State Alliance.

When sending your renewal, be sure to give exactly the name on label and postoffice to which the copy of paper you receive is sent.

DISCONTINUANCES.—Responsible subscribers will continue to receive this journal until the publishers are notified by letter to discontinue, when all arrears must be paid. If you do not wish the journal continued for another year after your subscription has expired, you should then notify us to discontinue it.

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We invite correspondence, news items, suggestions and criticisms on the subjects of agriculture, poultry raising, stock breeding, dairying, horticulture and gardening, woman's work, literature, or any subject of interest to our lady readers, young people, or the family generally; public matters, current events, political questions and principles, etc.—In short, any subject discussed in an all-round farm and family newspaper. Communications should be free from personalities and party abuse.

TO RESTRICT EMIGRATION.

We note with pleasure that the Immigration Restriction League is preparing to make a strong fight before Congress for an educational test for all immigrants from foreign countries. The League is sending out some interesting though rather alarming figures showing that immigration from the countries that have furnished our best citizens is steadily decreasing, while the proportion of Poles, Hungarians, and others of the more degraded peoples, is as steadily increasing. "Immigration," we notice, "is now more than double what it was in 1897, and the percentage of illiteracy has risen."

THE WORK OF THE SHORT COURSES.

Appropos of the discussion in the Sub Alliances this month, we publish herewith a statement of the purposes and results of the short courses in agriculture and dairying soon begin at the A. and M. College, which statement Dr. Burkett has prepared at our request. By the way, those that now think of taking either course and do not wish to regret when too late their failure to do so, should write without delay to Dr. Burkett. It will cost nothing to secure full information. Ask for it, then you will be in a position to decide more intelligently. The statement of purposes follows:

1. The short courses in agriculture and dairying in the N. C. A. & M. College are practical courses aiming to tell "how to do" the important things on the farm.
2. They cover the important phases that young men have to deal with in farm life.
3. The courses instruct so the student will know how to feed and make up rations for the farm animals; the points to look to in judging animals; how to select a beef or dairy animal; the type that makes a good feeder; how to breed animals so as to improve the live stock on the farm; the best crops to feed and grow and the proportions to feed; the treatment of the soils so as to improve them, the rotation of crops, the use of fertilizers and how to mix them up; how to properly make butter, the temperature to churn, the acidity of the cream, the use of the separator and how to handle the boiler and engine; the treatment of the common diseases of animals; injurious insects and bacteria.
4. Such knowledge is necessary to make the farm pay and farm work enjoyable.
5. With such a training life is sweeter, and brighter. Knowing how to do your work makes life worth living.

NORTH CAROLINA IN THE LITERARY WORLD.

The fact that three of the four books then on our table for review were written by North Carolinians, reminded us, a few days ago, that there now seems to be but little ground for the ancient complaint of the backwardness of Tar Heels in the literary world. To illustrate, let us glance at the list of North Carolina books brought out this year and of those that may be confidently expected in the near future.

Since January 1st, two volumes of our Confederate Regimental Histories have been issued.

Dr. J. Battle Avirett's "The Old Plantation" has appeared.

Col. D. Worthington has published a novel of reconstruction days, "The Broken Sword."

Miss Sallie W. Stockard has sent forth her "Lily of the Valley."

Col. R. B. Creech's "Grandfather Tales of North Carolina History" is just from the press.

"Cotton and Cotton Oil" subjects have been exhaustively discussed in a volume by D. A. Tompkins.

Prof. W. F. Massey has given us "Crop Growing and Crop Feeding."

Emerson admirers have welcomed Mrs. Margaret B. Shipp's "Beautiful Thoughts from Ralph Waldo Emerson."

"Among Flowers and Trees with the Poets" has been compiled chiefly by Miss Minnie Curtis Wait.

Prof. W. C. Allen has published his admirable collection of "North Carolina History Stories."

Doubleday, Page & Company's sumptuous two-volume edition of the "Memoirs of Sir William Byrd" is edited by Dr. Jno. S. Bassett.

Prof. B. F. Sladd has issued a new volume of poems.

"Stories of Bird Life," by Prof. T. Gilbert Pearson, has appeared and won golden opinions.

Moreover, one of the best selling novels of the year, "Jocelyn Cheshire," is a story of North Carolina life written by a lady who formerly lived in this State.

But the end is not yet, though the prospective output is confirmed to history and biography.

Judge Walter Clark and Mr. Samuel A. Ashe are said to be writing histories of the State, while Prof. Allen is at work on another volume of the "History Stories."

Mr. Marshall De Lancy Haywood is preparing a life of Governor Tryon.

A life of National Mace may be expected from Dr. Wm. E. Dadd.

Mr. W. J. Peele will bring out a second volume of the "Lives of Distinguished North Carolinians."

The life of Gen. Joseph Graham is being written by Maj. W. A. Graham.

Really, this is not a bad showing for a beginner.

FARM ARTICLES IN THIS NUMBER.

In THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER two weeks ago, Dr. Burkett published this statement that is well worth repeating: "We have no exhausted soils."

We have only soils lacking in productivity because of the physical and mechanical condition of these soils. The writer collected the analyses of 47 so-called exhausted soils and found that on an average they contained within eight inches of surface soil nearly 4,000 pounds of nitrogen, 5,000 pounds of phosphoric acid, and 17,600 pounds of potash. There, in those 'exhausted soils' to the depth of eight inches, was enough plant food for a hundred crops of wheat or thirty bushels per acre. Small crops result because the plant food is not available."

The same doctrine has been preached by Mr. J. B. Hunnicutt in nearly every letter of his that we have published. It is indeed one worthy of much consideration, and we hope that Dr. Burkett will write of it at greater length in an early issue of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

What Mr. Hunnicutt has to say of it in this number is both interesting and suggestive.

Harry Farmer talks on raising mules. Next week he will describe a boy's Christmas experiences in 1865.

Prof. Soule is one of the most earnest, persistent and efficient advocates of agricultural education. He is with us again this week, preaching plain common sense doctrine from the test, "What Kind of Education Does the Farmer Need?" He talks of the benefit of agricultural college education. A subject that is a little nearer most of our readers is this: "What kind of education should the young farmer have in our common schools?" And this is the

topic upon which Dr. Burkett will make some practical, rather novel, and decidedly interesting suggestions in our next number.

Our Wyoming man's views of North Carolina farming furnishes some noteworthy facts about ourselves and our section. Not the least noteworthy statement is this:

"If the land of Pennsylvania were treated the way some of the farmers of North Carolina treat theirs it would not produce anything."

We are very glad to publish Mr. Coolman's note. Nothing gives us more pleasure, as a newspaper man, than to have our agricultural articles thoroughly discussed by our readers.

At the risk of repeating what we have said many times we say: Whenever you find an article treating of a subject about which you wish further information, write us. Whenever you find an article containing advice that you regard as bad, either for your immediate section or for the country generally, write us your views. Whenever you think of a subject that ought to interest PROGRESSIVE FARMER readers, write us your views of it. And whenever you wish information about any subject in our line, send your inquiry and it will have the attention of some competent authority.

"Name the farm," is the advice given by J. A. Preston—advice that we have already endorsed. We think that it deserves the consideration of all readers.

Rev. Mr. Moore furnishes an article on "Beets as Feed for Cows." The reader will do well to read it now and file away for reference about garden planting time a few months hence.

A SUGGESTION THAT HAS BEEN OVERLOOKED.

A recent issue of the Biblical Recorder contained the following suggestion that strikes us as being good, very good. We can think of no reason for its not being put into practice, except that it must have been overlooked. Accordingly we republish it:

"The Federal Government has issued a notice to office holders in North Carolina that they must not be active in politics, and therefore must give up their places on committees of their political machine. This is very well. It is highly creditable to Mr. Roosevelt and his administration. It argues well for government for people instead of party, of politics for principles instead of pie, of rule of citizens instead of bosses. We hope the State Government will imitate the Federal Government in this matter, and issue a suggestion to our own county and State officials that inasmuch as the activity as office holders in politics is recognized as baneful, that they resign either their positions as committeemen or as officials. This would have as good effect upon the State as the other order will have upon the nation."

A BIT OF MACON'S WISDOM.

We note with much pleasure the evidences of increasing interest in the career of Nathaniel Macon. One little anecdote in which he figures that has never before appeared in print, we believe, was told us by Mr. R. H. Battle, of Raleigh, a few days ago. It is this: When Hon. Paul Cameron, then a young man, was on his way to a Connecticut school some time in the 20's, he passed through Washington City and was introduced to Macon, who was then in the Senate. In the conversation, the old Roman gave young Cameron this bit of advice: "Young man, you will be wanting to marry soon, so let me give you a bit of counsel. For your wife get a girl the smoke from whose father's chimney can be seen from your own home. Then you will not be so likely to make a mistake."

The following item from an exchange expresses our own ideas so precisely that we copy it, and ask that our readers bear it in mind: "For the benefit of our new subscribers, we repeat that our columns are always open for the discussion of topics of timely importance and interest to farmers, and we encourage the sending of voluntary contributions giving results of work and experiences of practical men on the farm. Anything submitted to us will receive our careful attention and if not available for publication will be returned if requested and stamps are sent for that purpose. Don't hesitate simply because your letter may need a little 'dressing up.' Send along your ideas and we will do the rest."

COTTON SEED PRICES.

Secretary Parker calls our attention to the following paragraphs from the Manufacturers' Record of December 12th. They should interest all that have cotton seed now on hand:

"It is stated that an agent of a number of Texas oil mills has purchased in Mississippi during the past month about 800 car loads of cotton seed in the Delta, to be delivered to the Texas mills at \$19.50 per ton."

"The Mississippi cotton seed oil mills are receiving larger orders from Iowa and Illinois for cotton seed meal and hulls for feeding cattle. The Mississippi Cotton Oil Company at Grenada has orders for 32 car loads of meal and hulls. The difficulty in getting cars for shipment is restricting trade in this industry."

This latter paragraph, it will be seen, reports the very condition that the State Alliance and the September cotton seed convention endeavored to emphasize. Undoubtedly this demand for cotton seed products for feeding Western cotton will grow steadily through the winter months.

LITERARY NOTES.

The Christmas number of Scribner's Magazine is especially notable for charming fiction and novel and effective art features. The old-fashioned Christmas story does not prevail, but in its place has come the story of bright and cheerful social phases, delicate sentiment, wit and humor.

All stories of Edgar Allen Poe's life of misfortune and misadventure are pitched in very much the same key of pity, except that some recounting his misfortunes do most accuse, and some do most excuse him. Poe's tragic tendency to antagonize people is described very searching in the January Delineator by Clara E. Laughlin in her series of stories of author's loves. The one chapter in Poe's turbulent story that is marked by perfect trust and love that never wavered, the idyl of his child wife, Virginia Clemm, is told with an exquisite touch. The illustrations are from rare portraits, that of Poe's wife being from the only known one taken during her life.

The Saturday Evening Post, of Philadelphia, announces two new departments which will challenge the interest of young men and women throughout the country. "A Home College Course," as one of them is called, has been designated to meet the wants of ambitious young people who have not had the advantages of a university training. This course will be conducted by a special faculty, composed of professors in the leading colleges. The studies have been most carefully chosen. Each will be treated in an interesting way, and helpful hints for outside reading freely given. "To the Young Man Beginning Business" is the second of these new departments. In it the most successful men in a dozen occupations will write about what helped them to the front in their own business, and give a list of books and magazines bearing upon it. Their purpose will be to tell the beginner how he can make himself more valuable to his employers. We congratulate The Saturday Evening Post upon the wisdom and enterprise displayed in adding these features.

FARM LIFE IN INDIANA.

Rev. C. Luther Miller, formerly a resident of North Carolina and a reader of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, furnishes the Davidson Dispatch a very interesting letter on some phases of farm life in Indiana, in which State he is now located. Writing from La Fayette, Ind., he says:

My work is not confined to the city with its 40 thousand inhabitants, but extends for miles into the country. While riding around the country I have noticed the prosperity of the Indiana farmers, and I will give my Davidson county friends an idea of the privileges of these Hoosier country people. The first thing I shall note is their

GOOD ROADS.

Behind a good farm horse, we sped over four miles in just one-half an hour. We did not make an effort to do this, for we made this same trip four times in one day, each time in exactly the same number of minutes. The matter is easily explained—good roads. Not many years ago such a task would have been as much as an impossibility here as it is to make that time in any of our mud roads leading out of Lexington in the muddiest season. The farmers, with

the help of the townspeople, voted a taxation sufficient to grade and gravel their roads. This they consider money well spent.

Not one would go back to mud roads at four times the price they paid. One-half the time is saved, and three or four times larger loads can be hauled.

GOOD BRIDGES.

Just as the roads are laid out to best advantage, so that the grades are slightest, in the same wise manner there are no wooden bridges—all are iron and every one safe and secure. This, too, they have found to be the cheapest in the run of years. As I rode over these roads and bridges a vision of the mud out roads and weak, trembling, wooden structures of Davidson county arose before me. How long will it take our good people to learn that our plan is the costliest system after all?

GOOD SCHOOLS.

In North Carolina there is no question of greater importance than the road question, except the school question. Indiana sets us a contrast in this subject also. Their schools are graded and do not have more than 30 pupils to a school. In each township there is one high school where pupils may attend after graduating in the common or graded school. The teachers are paid \$50 per month in the common schools—more in the high school. The school year is never less than 8 months per year.

GOOD SCHOOL BUILDINGS.

Here, too, the Hoosier people differ from us in Davidson county. Instead of a log house, daubed and more poorly lighted, we find a neat brick house, well heated, well lighted, well furnished—better in a majority of cases, than the homes of the children. These schools too are supported by direct taxation, and strange to say, there are none who are "kicking," but all glory in their situation.

GOOD MAIL FACILITIES.

Another fact over which these farmers are rejoicing is their mail facilities. They have taken advantage of the rural mail system, and there are 20 routes in this one county—more perhaps than in the whole State of North Carolina. When we made some effort to join Rev. Holsinger in his attempt to secure a route for our people I found enough who opposed the idea to stop me from carrying the petition. I wish that our people could just talk with these Indiana people for a few minutes over their rural mail service. They think it is the greatest blessing they have. They take the daily papers and say they "live right in town."

In all of the above matters we North Carolina people can learn from our Western brethren. With their good roads, good schools and good school houses and rural mail system they have added improvements of the latest kind in draining and farm machinery so that their farms are in a high state of cultivation. Their lands sell from \$100 to \$200 per acre.

The Thinkers.

ECONOMIC VALUE OF GOOD ROADS.

There is food for thought in the report of the Maryland Geological Survey just out. In the first place we are told that the people of Maryland have expended, during the last ten years, upon the so called construction and repair of their own roads the sum of no less than \$6,000,000. It seems that the greater part of this money has been frittered away in the attempt to repair roads which have been poorly laid out in the first place, and for the lack of certain necessary engineering qualifications can, in the nature of things, never be made into good roads. As an instance of this it may be mentioned that many of the common roads have no natural drainage. We are told that most of them are in a poor condition for a part of the year, and some of them for the whole twelve months. As the result of a careful estimate made by the survey, it is shown that the farmers of the State of Maryland expended \$3,000,000 a year more on their hauling over the present poorly built high ways than would be necessary if the hauling were done on first class roads. These figures are to be compared with the information collected by the Department of Agriculture in 1895, when, as the result of data received from over twelve hundred counties in various parts of the United States, it was ascertained that the average cost of hauling one ton for one mile over country roads was twenty five cents; which was

just three times as much as the average cost of hauling over the improved macadam roads of six European countries. If this large sum of money represents the loss to the State of Maryland from poor roads, it is easy to say that the total loss throughout the whole United States represents a figure so great that it must have an important bearing upon the prosperity of the country at large, and particularly upon the farming interests as such. At first sight it seems incredible that in a country so progressive as ours the condition of the common roads should be over a half century behind that of the Old World. It is true that the vast extent of the United States, and the great mileage of our roads in some States relative to the density of the population, may be offered as an excuse for our backwardness; but while this plea may hold good as regards the thinly populated Western and Southern States it cannot be applied to the older, more populous and wealthy sections of the country.—Christian Advocate.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH.

Some of the Republican papers are suggesting limitations upon the freedom of speech as a cure for anarchy. The editor of the Commoner has as much reason as any living man to know of the abuse sometimes heaped upon candidates for office. He has been the victim of as much malice and vituperation as have ever been employed against an American, and yet he is opposed to placing any additional restriction upon the freedom of speech or the freedom of the press.

First, because the evils of restriction are greater than the evils of freedom, and, second, because abuse does not hurt the man or the party made the subject of attack. The death of President McKinley cannot be traced to anything ever spoken or written against him. The assassin spoke affectionately of his victim and said that he killed him not because of his dislike for the man but because of his opposition to government of any kind. Some who are engaged in schemes which will not bear the light will shield themselves behind the murderous deed of the assassin and denounce freedom of speech because they do not want the public to be informed of their doings. Others, stirred by a righteous indignation, strike at free speech because some have abused the latitude allowed. It is time for liberty-loving citizens to protest against the attempt to suppress free speech. The warfare must be against anarchy, not against freedom of speech. Anarchy is an European product and thrives most where there is least freedom of speech and least freedom of the press. Let us not make the mistake of undermining our institutions under the delusion that we are thus protecting those institutions.

Free speech and a free press are essential to free government. No man in public life can object to the publication of the truth and no man in public life is permanently injured by the publication of a lie. That much is published that should not be is only too evident, but let public opinion correct the evil; that will be more effective than law and will bring no danger with it. If a paper abuses a political opponent stop your subscription and teach the editor to conduct his paper on respectable lines. There is a sense of justice in the human heart and he who violates it violates it at his own peril. This sense of justice ultimately turns abuse to the benefit of the man abused. The present laws against slander and libel are sufficient; leave the rest to a healthy public sentiment—and then help to create the sentiment.—Bryan's Commoner.

WHERE DUTY LIES.

The newspapers of the South are certainly doing their duty. Fifteen years ago it was the exception to disapprove lynching, for the special crime and strong denunciation of the practice was seldom heard from the press. Now it is quite different. There is hardly any newspaper of consequence in the South that now condones mob violence on any provocation, while the great majority of them unhesitatingly condemn and denounce lynchings even when they occur in the newspaper's immediate locality. The influence of the press is unmistakably against the practice, and if that influence is of any consequence there is certainly a basis for hoping that public sentiment will take that direction.—Columbia State.